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introducing the western mechanism of government and civilization into the orient. We are in great need of a scientific study of the development of Indian administration and its influence on native society—a work which will demand not only a technical mastery of institutions, but before all an understanding of the psychological difficulties which Mr. Townsend has suggested. We might wish for our own sake that he had discussed more in detail some of the political measures of the last two decades in their relations to native life, or that he had given us his views on the results of the introduction of western *industrial* civilization in the orient, with its cardinal idea of a uniform natural law, free from caprice—an idea of great potentiality for radically influencing the Oriental mind; but we are grateful to him for the stimulating and suggestive thoughts he has communicated to us, and for such apt expressions as “contemptuous guardianship”—a fit pendant to the “ironical allegiance” so much spoken of in former days.

PAUL S. REINSCH.

The Working Constitution of the United Kingdom. By LEONARD COURTNEY. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1901. Pp. viii, 383.)

THIS book, as the title indicates, treats of the existing political institutions of the British Empire. It is, however, far more than a mere descriptive handbook. Each institution is presented in an appropriate historical setting and the successive stages of recent development recounted in outline, sufficient to explain current facts. The various defects and inconsistencies of the existing machinery of government are also pointed out and possible remedies suggested.

The plan of treatment is admirable. Part I. is occupied with the consideration of Parliament—Crown, Lords and Commons—as the organ through which the will of the nation seeks formal and final expression; Part II. with the consideration of the institutions subordinate to Parliament—the judiciary, the church, and the various organizations for local administration; Part III. with the relations of Parliament to the Empire, and to foreign powers. Under this head are also treated the local institutions of the several kinds of colonies, the question of ultimate federation, and the possible result of the attempt to govern alien races from Westminster. A chapter is given to the delicate machinery by which treaties and other conventions are made with foreign powers, and a final chapter to the possibilities of the British Constitution in the way of future growth.

In a work of this character where the demands of severe condensation are paramount, one hesitates to raise an issue with an author who is evidently so well possessed of the matter in hand. Some statements, however, certainly need qualification. For example, after speaking of the ancient origin of the parish, the author proceeds to consider it as the unit in political organization, a function of the parish which is by no means ancient, but belongs rather to comparatively recent times. So

also in discussing the legislative functions of the House of Lords, the author presents the long accepted view which deprives the Lords of all power to arrest legislation in a final issue with a ministry that possesses the support of the Commons; and yet in the light of the memorable defeat of the second Home Rule Bill of Mr. Gladstone, the question may be fairly raised: does the accepted theory of the legislative nonentity of the Lords express fully the fact? Are there not conditions under which the rejection of a measure by the Lords is a finality, although at the time the measure possesses the support of the Commons. It is significant that before the determined front of the Lords in 1893 even Mr. Gladstone flinched, although in the Newcastle Programme he had pledged himself "to mend or end" the House of Lords.

The American student will regret that the author has not seen fit to give fuller treatment to the material grouped under Part II. In Part I. he traverses a well-beaten track, familiar to all students of English history. But in discussing the working of the British judicial system and the development of local government in recent times, the author enters the mysterious shadows of a land, to the average American student, virtually unknown. The value of the book would also be increased for an American reader were it accompanied by a glossary in which such technical terms as are not to be found in an ordinary dictionary might be explained. All in all, the style is not as lucid as one has a right to expect in a book of this character; the composition is frequently careless and sometimes the result is startling. Note this remarkable statement on page 246, "the city is divided into twenty-six wards, the rate payers of which annually elect common councilmen in varying numbers having some rough relation to their size." BENJAMIN TERRY.

Dictionary of National Biography. Edited by SIDNEY LEE. Supplement, in three volumes. Vol. I., Abbott-Childers, Vol. II., Chippendale-Hoste, Vol. III., How-Woodward. (New York: The Macmillan Co.; London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1901. Pp. lii, 430; vi, 452; vi, 522.)

THE *Dictionary of National Biography* has now reached definite completion. It was begun as long ago as 1882 and the quarterly volumes have since appeared with clock-like regularity. Between the beginning at "A" and the ending at "W" many persons died who were entitled to a place in the *Dictionary*. Some names also were omitted from the earlier volumes. The present supplement covers these omissions and completes the *Dictionary* to the end of the reign of Victoria. There has indeed been a rare dramatic finish to the great work. The Queen died when the supplementary volumes were under way and the close of her reign then became a fitting date to mark the end of the work. It is therefore complete to January 22, 1901. Mr. George Smith, the publisher, who brought it out at enormous financial loss, died April 6, 1901, having lived to see it practically finished. In one sense, however, the